

Claims

1 1. A method for enhancing the efficacy of a therapeutic treatment
2 for cancer in a patient, said therapeutic treatment being selected from the group
3 consisting of: chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgery, and combinations
4 thereof, said method comprising the steps of:

5 administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a
6 compound which binds to a galectin; and

7 administering said therapeutic treatment to said patient.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said galectin is present on the
2 cell surface of a tissue of said patient.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound binds to
2 galectin-1 or galectin-3.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a
2 polymeric backbone having side chains dependent therefrom, said side chains
3 being terminated by a galactose or arabinose unit.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a
2 substantially demethoxylated polygalacturonic acid which is interrupted with
3 rhamnose residues.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a
2 carbohydrate.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said carbohydrate comprises a
2 branched carbohydrate.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound comprises a
2 modified pectin.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin comprises
2 a pH modified pectin.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said modified pectin comprises
2 an enzymatically modified pectin.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin comprises
2 a thermally modified pectin.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin comprises
2 a modified citrus pectin.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound has a molecular
2 weight of at least 300 dalton.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound has a molecular
2 weight in the range of 300-2,000 dalton.

1 15. The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin has a
2 molecular weight in the range of 1-50 kilodalton.

1 16. The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin has a
2 molecular weight in the range of 1-15 kilodalton.

1 17. The method of claim 8, wherein said modified pectin has a
2 molecular weight of approximately 10 kilodalton.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering said
2 compound to said patient comprises injecting said compound into said patient.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering said
2 compound to said patient comprises orally administering said compound to
3 said patient.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering said
2 compound to said patient comprises administering said compound prior to
3 administering said therapeutic treatment to said patient.

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1 21. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of administering said
2 compound to said patient comprises administering said compound to said
3 patient after said therapeutic treatment is administered to said patient.

1 22. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is administered
2 concomitant with said therapeutic treatment.